

CALFED OPERATIONS COORDINATION GROUP
June 27, 2001 MEETING NOTES AND ACTION ITEMS

Review of May 23 meeting notes

No revisions were made to the May 23, 2001, CALFED Ops meeting notes.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

The following handouts were provided at the meeting:

1. CALFED Operations Briefing Package; June 27, 2001; John Leahigh; DWR
2. Winter-run Chinook Salmon, Steelhead, and Spring-run Chinook Update, June 27, 2001, NMFS, Bruce Oppenheim

SWRCB

Notices of curtailment were sent June 4, 2001 to 89 water right holders who have Term 91 in their permits. These water right holders were required to return Compliance Certification Statements to the SWRCB in which they must identify alternate sources of water or certify that no hydraulic continuity exists between their point of diversion and the Delta. The Compliance Unit will conduct inspections this year.

The SWRCB received a request on June 8 for Temporary Urgency Change from the DWR to add Tracy Pumping Plant as a temporary point of diversion to DWR's water right permits. The request was made because of the leak in the California Aqueduct. Order WR 2001-09 (DWR) was issued on June 12 granting the change. The approval is in effect for 180 days from the date of the order.

The SWRCB issued a draft order taking final action on petitions for reconsideration of Decision 1635. This decision addressed the partial assignment of a State filed application to El Dorado Irrigation District for diversion of water from the American River. The draft order would reverse the original decision by including Term 91 in the permit of EID. Written comments are due July 20 and the matter will be considered at the August 1 Board workshop.

A letter was sent to Westlands Water District on June 6 denying their petition for reassignment of the State filing assigned to the USBR for the Friant Project. WWD may file a Writ of Mandate challenging this decision. June 12 was the deadline for parties to submit protests to WWD's application to appropriate

water. Eighteen protests were received. The SWRCB must now determine which protests to accept and on what issues.

Temporary Barriers

Head of Old River Barrier has been removed. The 3 agricultural barriers are operating tidally.

Environmental Water Account Implementation

The EWA matrix at the back of the Operations Package was discussed. A potential acquisition on the Merced River by October is anticipated. Placer County is on a fast track and could be in place by next month, around mid-July.

What is the cost of EWA so far? Jim White estimated \$60 million.

OFF and DAT Update

OFF call on June 25 was prompted by USBR regarding the 450 TAF b(2) WQCP cap and to gather feedback for WOMT meeting on June 26. CVP contractors urged Reclamation to move as quickly as possible and get the water moving.

Delta smelt barrier operations have been the main topic of recent DAT calls. Yesterday, DAT agreed to end its regular Tuesday calls until chinook salmon season in the fall.

Fishery Status

Salmon: The out migration of juveniles is over. In September, monitoring will begin again. The adult salmon results will be available in August/September. Winter run salmon appear to be ahead of schedule this year, but we are not sure if the peak has been reached yet. As in every year, there was discussion about moving the temperature compliance point further upstream of Jelly's Ferry. Notes from the Salmon workshop may be written up for the IEP newsletter. May was a hot month for steelhead fry, requiring early shutter operations. An invitation was extended to the American River Operations Group to participate in these CALFED Operations Group meetings.

Splittail: The comment period on splittail is now over, however the USFWS is reopening another comment period next week lasting until October 1st.

Delta Smelt: The delta smelt take at the SWP and the CVP has been zero. The 14-day running average has been in the single digits. Survey 8 is currently being

conducted. Survey 7 showed the delta smelt at the Sacramento/San Joaquin river confluence. Survey 8 shows none there now.

Alex Hildebrand questions whether the monitoring programs verify opening the temporary barrier flap gates are benefiting the delta smelt.

OPERATIONS

CVP/SWP Operations Status:

On June 5, a significant leak was discovered in the California aqueduct. On June 6, sixty cubic yards of concrete was pumped into the leak. By June 7, repair work began with the building of two coffer dams in order to dewater and remove fish. Repairs were scheduled to be completed by mid-July, but could be completed as early as next week. Upon completion, exports will be ramped up and the State will begin moving EWA and forebearance water. The September 30 target is to fill the reservoirs and/or not run out of water. The Operations package was distributed and discussed.

Alex Hildebrand is concerned about dissolved oxygen problems near Stockton during this dry year. He would like to have modeling studies conducted to study this condition. He said a minimum flow of 2,000 cfs at Stockton is needed avoid this problem. He said the Head of Old River barrier is needed to boost up the flow. He would like to see a permanent barrier installed as soon as possible.

The Westlands water users are worried about shut down at Banks Pumping Plant impacting their livelihood. Water on the spot market is \$30/arce-foot. Many are concerned about facing bankruptcy.

Delta Operations Criteria:

Bay-Delta Standards for the month of June were discussed. The water quality standard at Emmatton was a concern earlier in the month. The Contra Costa Canal standard has been met for 139 days and the remaining required days are expected to be met by early July.

Operations Plan:

The Projects have two to three months (July, August, and September) to move water (EWA, Yuba, transfer, dry year, and forbearance). Joint Point of Diversion was submitted to the SWRB for approval.

450 TAF Cap:

The 450 taf cap has been the discussion subject of many meetings. A small group was established to look at acquiring waste and how to get funding. Up to \$10 million of Proposition 13 money has been funded. Need to look at the Proposition 13 fund guidelines for any limits on how to use the money. Can DWR transfer the funds to a local agency as a grant? Need to figure out where the impacts are. Reclamation needs to review with NMFS.

Agenda items for Next Meeting . . . July 25, 2001

None suggested at this time.